

Meeting Summary
WRIA 55/57 Watershed Implementation Team
Little Spokane - Middle Spokane River Watersheds
December 2, 2009

Committee members recorded on the sign in sheet were:

Ty Wick, <i>SAJB</i>	Todd Henry, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>
Reanette Boese, <i>Spokane County</i>	Howard Rowley, <i>Horseshoe Lake</i>
Claudia Crawford, <i>Whitworth Water</i>	Susan McGeorge, <i>Whitworth Water</i>
Steve Skipworth, <i>Vera Water & Power</i>	Bill Rickard, <i>City of Spokane Water Dept</i>
Rusty Post, <i>Dept of Ecology</i>	Rick Noll, <i>Spokane Conservation Dist</i>
Tavis Schmidt, <i>City of Spokane Valley</i>	Lloyd Brewer, <i>City of Spokane</i>
Greg Sweeney, <i>Eloika Lake Assoc</i>	Tom Wimpy, <i>Diamond Lake</i>
Dave Jones, <i>Spokane Co Planning Dept</i>	
Bill Harmon, <i>Eloika Lake Assoc & West Branch</i>	

Guests Present:

Dale Gill, *LSR Private Property Owner*

Consultants Present:

Susan Gulick, *Sound Resolutions*

Introductions and Meeting Summary: Susan Gulick called the meeting to order. Committee members and guests introduced themselves. The meeting summary for November 4, 2009 was reviewed with additions and revisions to be made. Corrected copy will be emailed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

West Branch LSR: Greg Sweeney reported that the next meeting will be January 25th, 2010. They may have a presentation on the purchase of the "Rustler Gulch Property."

Conservation: Reanette reported that the RWCC meeting would be December 10th, 2009. Reanette also reported that she has 38 enrolled for the Irrigation Efficiency Class to be held on December 7th. Lloyd Brewer reported that the city is sorting out the funding for the Water Stewardship Program for next year and also if conservation rebates will be available next year. At our next meeting in January we will have an update on the County and City rebate programs from this year.

Stormwater: Reanette reported Matt Zarecor is the new Stormwater Director for Spokane County.

APC: Reanette reported that the next meeting will be held December 8th and one topic will be the Urban Waters Initiative which is looking for sources of contaminations including PCBs.

Lloyd Brewer reported that the City of Spokane has been working on the "Critical Materials List" and will have the list available at the next APC meeting.

Xeriscaping Project: Rick Noll reported that the Department of Ecology and Spokane County Conservation District are working together to create a web page on xeriscaping. They are also seeking landscape architects to prepare some model xeriscaping designs pro-bono.

Lloyd hopes this project will encourage people removing grass for the City's rebate program to use plants instead of just gravel or mulch.

Conservation Updates:

Reanette gave handouts on the 2007 Irrigation Efficiency upgrade results. The data are incomplete for 2009. Incomplete data in other years due to technical glitches and errors due to incomplete understanding of the systems makes it difficult to determine the success of the program. Reanette concludes that it is very important to learn how to properly use and maintain sprinkler systems, making the Irrigation Efficiency Classes a very good idea.

Tavis Schmidt gave an update on the Spokane Valley xeriscaping in the commercial landscaping code. A landscape architect helped create the code. He reported that no commercial project has taken full advantage of the program even though all planners point it out to the developers. The cost of xeriscaping possibly has prevented some of the contractors from using xeriscaping.

Water Availability: The WIT de-briefed the previous WIT meeting regarding water availability. Mary Ausburn of Ecology is trying to coordinate a follow-up meeting between Spokane County Planning, Regional Health and Ecology, but has not received replies from Spokane County Planning or Regional Health.

The WIT asked Reanette and Susan to prepare a letter to the Regional Health officer (perhaps a revision to the letter that was sent last year) asking for stronger assurances of long-term, sustainable water availability.

Ty, Susan M, Todd/Steve and Bill R will prepare brief case studies to illustrate real water availability issues and problems. They will get the case studies to Susan G. before the next WIT meeting. The information can be in simple bulleted form, or can be conveyed via a phone conversation, and Susan G. will write the narrative.

Other Issues: Susan Gulick and Reanette will work on two different draft letters to legislators requesting that they preserve the funding for watersheds. One letter will be a template for Planning Unit members to use to send individual letters to legislators. Reanette will send a separate letter on behalf of the entire WIT.

Dale Gill reported that the residents in the Little Deep Creek area are having some water problems. He also noted that the Washington State Parks may be expanding the Mt. Spokane Ski area and will be clear-cutting the north and west face of the mountain. He asked WIT members to comment on this. Dale also suggested that the Watershed Implementation Team ask for federal stimulus money for watershed projects.

Next Planning Unit Meeting:

Wed. January 6, 2010

9:00am – 12:00pm

Spokane County Conservation District